

HOUSE No. 2764

By Mr. Keenan of Southwick, petition of Daniel F. Keenan relative to authorizing the Division of Medical Assistance to enter into contracts with certain home health agencies to provide services to medical assistance recipients. Health Care Financing.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO HOME HEALTH SERVICES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or special law to
2 the contrary, the division of medical assistance may enter into
3 contracts with certain home health agencies to provide home
4 health services to medical assistance recipients. The division may
5 enter into such contracts with only those home health agencies
6 that: (i) are organized as not-for-profit entities; (2) according to
7 the most recent agency-specific utilization data collected from the
8 division, delivered twenty 10 cent of MassHealth reimbursed
9 skilled nursing visits within the agency's service area, and more
10 than 10 per cent of all MassHealth reimbursed home health aide
11 services within the agency's service area, and (3) in the determi-
12 nation of the division, provide services that are essential to ensure
13 access to home health services for medical assistance recipients.
14 The division shall ensure that any home health agency that is a
15 party to any such contract shall comply with any performance
16 measures, outcome goals, cost effectiveness standards and other
17 terms and conditions established by the division. In defining a
18 prospective payment amount under this subsection the division
19 shall consider each agency's specific data to determine an appro-
20 priate unit of service and the number, type and duration of visits
21 provided within that unit and a general system design that pro-
22 vides for continued access to quality services through appropriate
23 adjustments based upon a clinical assessment of each patient's

24 needs. In addition, the department of public health shall establish
25 procedures to ensure appropriate access and quality of services
26 provided under this system. The department shall conduct an
27 assessment of this demonstration after six months and shall report
28 the findings to the house and senate committees on ways and
29 means.